

NSC BRIEFING

4 January 1955

PROBABLE ACTION ON THE PARIS ACCORDS IN THE FRENCH  
COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC

- I. Council of the Republic expected to approve Paris accords:
  - A. Action likely by late February.
    1. Constitutionally, Council must act within two months after transmittal of measure from Assembly (by 11 Mar 55).
  - B. Last fall, Mendes-France optimistically predicted 200 favorable out of 319 membership.
    1. Mechanical projection of Assembly vote according to party makeup of Council would give better than absolute majority (170 over 160).
  - C. Instead, simple plurality now seems more likely.
    1. Assembly action showed many more abstentions than expected.
    2. Since Council's smaller Communist membership means smaller vote flatly against bill, more non-Communist Senators may feel it safe to abstain without risking bill's defeat.
  - D. Paris press still considers situation favorable.
    1. According to press, rapporteurs named by Council committees--unlike some in Assembly--are all favorable to accords.

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II. Technically possible for Council to delay approval until end of June--by amending it, which would automatically force Assembly reconsideration and permit Council to delay final Assembly decision for 100 days. However:

- A. Council not expected to amend the accords.
- B. No reason to expect Council to adopt dilatory tactics,
- C. But little likelihood that Council would adopt rush procedure.
- D. Council could raise constitutional question, but danger is remote:
- E. Under constitutional revision of 30 Nov '54, Council can no longer oblige Assembly to muster an absolute majority in order to override similar majority in Council.